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PRESS RELEASE

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WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES NEW NOMINEE AS US AMBASSADOR TO AZERBAIJAN

President George W. Bush has announced his intention to nominate Anne E. Derse, of Maryland, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Azerbaijan. Ms. Derse, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, most recently served as a Director for Bio Defense Policy at the Homeland Security Council at the White House. Prior to this, she served as Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the United States Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq. Earlier in her career, she served as Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the United States Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. Ms. Derse received her bachelor's degree from Macalester College and her master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University.